

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-15 are pending in this application. Independent Claims 10 and 13 are amended by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 10, 12, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Nagashima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,791,492, hereinafter Nagashima); and Claims 11 and 14 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter. However, since Applicants consider that independent Claims 10 and 13 patentably define over the applied reference, the remaining dependent claims are presently maintained in dependent form.

With regard to the rejection of independent Claims 10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over Nagashima, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 10 and 13 state novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied reference.

Amended independent Claim 10 recites, *inter alia*, an image forming apparatus, wherein

...said master machine is configured to display in a link copy mode ***validity of keys which permit selection of usable functions in the link copy mode***... usable functions being functions which all of the master machine and each slave machine are able to execute,

¹ E.g., specification, Figs. 24-30 and corresponding description.

wherein said master machine is configured to display in a link copy mode *invalidity of keys which prohibit selection of unusable functions, unusable functions being functions, which all of the master machine and each slave machine are unable to execute.*

Independent Claim 13, while directed to an alternative embodiment is amended to recite substantially similar features. Accordingly, the arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 10 and 13.

Turning to the applied reference, Nagashima describes a display in special operations of the reader to output to a plurality of printers. The display indicates the available sizes of the cassettes mounted on the available printers.² Upon selection of the paper size by the operator, a printer having a cassette for the selected paper size is selected.³

Nagashima, however, fails to teach or suggest displaying, in a link copy mode, *validity of keys which permit selection of usable functions, and invalidity of keys which prohibit selection of unusable functions, unusable functions being functions, which all of the master machine and each slave machine are unable to execute*, as recited in independent Claim 10.

As shown at Figs. 24-30, validity of keys and invalidity of keys are indicated on the display, which are convenient for the users because the users are able to know all the functions of the apparatus has and which functions are available or not available while in link copy mode. The unavailable functions are shaded to indicate that they are not available in the link copy mode.

In contrast, as depicted in Figs. 10(a)-10(b) and discussed above, the display of Nagashima includes only options that are valid functions capable of selection by the user. Specifically, cols. 13-14 describe that only valid printer options are presented to a user based

² Nagashima, col. 14, lines 16-18.

³ Id., col. 14, lines 37-39 and lines 45-47.

on the availability of resources connected to the reader, and no invalid keys are presented to a user for informational purposes, as claimed.

Accordingly, Nagashima fails to teach or suggest displaying, in a link copy mode, ***validity of keys which permit selection of usable functions, and invalidity of keys which prohibit selection of unusable functions, unusable functions being functions, which all of the master machine and each slave machine are unable to execute***, as recited in independent Claim 10.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claims 10 and 13 (and the claims that depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

Accordingly, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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